

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for controlling network access through a  
2 remote terminal adapter by a customer, the method  
3 comprising:  
4 a) initializing an account;  
5 b) verifying credit of the customer; and  
6 c) requesting service via the remote terminal  
7 adapter if the credit of the customer is approved.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the act of initializing  
2 an account includes  
3 i) receiving a connection initiated by the  
4 customer;  
5 ii) requesting  
6 A) a room number associated with the  
7 remote terminal,  
8 B) an identifier associated with the  
9 remote terminal,  
10 C) credit information of the customer,  
11 and  
12 D) service period information desired by  
13 the customer,  
14 from the customer over the connection; and  
15 iii) accepting the requested information from  
16 the customer.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the act of initializing  
2 an account further includes  
3 iv) storing at least some of the requested  
4 information accepted in a temporary account  
5 database.

1 4. A method for controlling network access through a  
2 remote terminal adapter by a customer, the method  
3 comprising:

- 4 a) initializing an account;
- 5 b) attempting to verify account information; and
- 6 c) requesting service via the remote terminal  
7 adapter if the account information is verified.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the act of initializing  
2 an account includes

- 3 i) receiving a connection initiated by the  
4 customer;
- 5 ii) requesting
  - 6 A) a room number associated with the  
7 remote terminal,
  - 8 B) an identifier associated with the  
9 remote terminal,
  - 10 C) credit information of the customer,  
11 and
  - 12 D) service period information desired by  
13 the customer,
  - 14 from the customer over the connection; and
- 15 iii) accepting the requested information from  
16 the customer.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the act of initializing  
2 an account further includes

3           iv) storing at least some of the requested  
4           information accepted in a temporary account  
5           database.

1       7. The method of claim 5 wherein the act of attempting  
2       to verify account information includes checking a room  
3       number, terminal identifier, and a caller identifier with  
4       information in a participant properties database.

1       8. A machine-readable medium storing information for  
2       verifying service requests for use of a network access  
3       terminal accessible to a short-term, transient,  
4       customer-base, the information including:  
5           a) a first field for storing an identifier  
6           associated with the network access terminal;  
7           b) a second field for storing information for  
8           identifying a property at which the network access  
9           terminal is located;  
10          c) a third field for storing information for  
11          identifying a room in which the network access  
12          terminal is located.

1       9. The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the  
2       information further includes:  
3           d) a fourth field for storing outgoing telephone  
4           numbers associated with the property identified in  
5           the second field.

1       10. The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the  
2       information further includes:

3 d) a fourth field for storing an address of the  
4 network access terminal.

1 11. The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the  
2 address is an internet protocol address.

1 12. A method for controlling network access through a  
2 remote terminal adapter by a customer, the method  
3 comprising:

4 a) requesting order information from the customer;  
5 b) accepting the requested order information from  
6 the customer;  
7 c) verifying credit information provided by the  
8 customer;  
9 d) instructing that the remote terminal for network  
10 access be enabled;  
11 e) instructing that the enablement of the remote  
12 terminal be terminated at the expiration of a  
13 service period.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

2 f) billing the customer for use of the remote  
3 terminal for network access.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2 g) distributing funds to at least one of (a) an  
3 owner of the remote terminal, and (b) an owner of a  
4 property at which the remote terminal is located.